

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 24, 2004, **LEANDER BROOKS**, age 39, was sentenced before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, East St. Louis, Illinois to 18 months' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, and a \$400 fine. **BROOKS** pled guilty on February 12, 2004, to a four-count indictment charging him with (1) conspiracy to give false information to obtain ballots, and to deprive residents of a fair and impartially conducted election; (2) providing false information on ballot applications; (3) depriving residents of a fair and impartially conducted election; and, (4) conspiracy to oppress residents in their rights under the Constitution to have their votes counted fairly and without dilution by fraudulent votes. The charges arise from conduct by **BROOKS** while serving as an Election Judge in the 26th Precinct, East St. Louis, Illinois, during the November 5, 2002 General Election.

The Prosecution falls within the Department of Justice's nationwide Voting Integrity Initiative announced by Attorney General Ashcroft on October 8, 2002. The purpose of this nationwide federal law enforcement program is to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by strengthening and enhancing the Department's efforts to protect voting rights and to prosecute election crime throughout the country.

Information for the successful prosecution was obtained in an investigation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Inspector General, and the Illinois State Police. The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Hal Goldsmith.

